



SCENES



1. The Poverty Stricken.
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6. The Christmas Angel.



GEO. MÉLIÈS

of Paris.

Cinematographic-Films, Life Moving Pictures, Comical, Magical,
Mystical Views, Trick-Films, Actualities, etc.



New York Branch:

204 EAST 38th STREET, NEW YORK

GASTON MÉLIÈS, General Manager.

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678-679 The Living Playing Cards. Length, 160 feet.....\$27.00

The stage setting represents a beautiful landscape with an ancient Roman Temple in the background. Upon a low table there is placed a large screen, and to the right is a small tabourette containing some of the properties of the prestidigitateur. As he enters he takes up a playing card, the nine of spades, and enlarges it in some mysterious way, to enormous proportions, and then hurls it at the screen which immediately has outlined upon its surface the face of a huge nine of spades. This figure vanishes, then the prestidigitateur repeats the trick with a queen of spades. The figure on the screen becomes animated and steps down upon the floor—a real queen dressed in gorgeous robes of state, regal with a crown and sceptre. She returns to the screen, is at once transformed into a playing card, and the screen is bare again. Finally the wizard repeats his act with the king of clubs. This card becomes animated, and a real king steps forth from the frame. When he reaches the floor he turns his back to the audience, the wizard going off the stage at the same time. The king pulls off his wig and disrobes, and turning around he discloses himself to the audience as the wizard himself. This is a very clever trick so gracefully and admirably done that it evokes always well-merited applause.

680-682 The King of Sharpshooters. (Scene, a Moorish interior). Length, 225 feet.....\$38.00

Among the properties is a massive candelabrum, eight or ten feet high, with five branches. The king of sharpshooters enters, followed by his assistants. He first takes some large playing cards, passes them to a young woman who holds them for him to shoot at. When he has put some holes through them, he takes them from his assistant, runs his arm into the bullet holes, and then sends the cards fluttering

"STAR" FILMS

through the air in as perfect a condition as they were before he shot at them. After a few shooting tricks he removes his own head from his body, throws it to an assistant who places it in one of the sockets of the huge candelabrum. The instant the head is fixed in place, a new head appears on the sharpshooter and he throws this away to his assistants who put it into another socket of the candelabrum, and so on until all the sockets are filled. He takes his gun and shoots all the heads away except the one in the middle. Suddenly a body appears in the place of the middle head. It jumps to the floor; it is none other than the sharpshooter himself who, through a clever trick, had substituted one of the assistants for himself, while he was shooting at the heads. The sight of the five heads all absolutely alike dancing in the sockets of the candelabrum creates a sensation as mystifying as it is ludicrous, and the marvel of the trick is that the sharpshooter is able to get a new head as soon as he parts with the old one.

683-685 The Black Imp. Length, 225 feet.....\$38.00

A Black Imp worn out by his hard and dirty work of the day has made up his mind to take a good night's rest in a comfortable bed. He sneaks into the bedroom of a small hotel and gets ready to stretch himself out upon the bed when he hears a noise outside the door which forces him to run and hide. Some servants of the hotel are showing the room to a traveler who has just arrived. The servants withdraw and the traveler takes possession of a bed and a good rest, plays all sorts of tricks upon the guest until the latter becomes so mad with rage that he has to be carried away to a sanitarium. Rid of his annoyances, the lad gets into bed and immediately falls fast asleep.

This view is irresistibly comical. The tricks which the unfortunate traveler has to endure are most amusing and clever.

686-689 The Crystal Casket. Length, 300 feet\$51.00
Extra for coloring\$60.00

A juggler, clothed in an elaborate costume of the time of Henry III., makes some passes with a playing die and forces it to increase to huge dimensions while between his hands. He puts it upon a table which has no connections whatsoever with the floor. The four sides of the die fall apart and reveal a bunch of flowers which, in turn, are seen to separate and to give forth a ravishing fairy. The noble lord seizes her, wraps her in a veil and shuts her up in a crystal casket. He sets it afire; the fairy is rapidly consumed by the flames, yet she is revived more beautiful than ever. The personages salute the audience and withdraw, followed by the die which goes rolling after.

690-692 The Lilliputian Minuet. Length, 200 feet.....\$34.00
Extra for coloring\$40.00

A magnificent marble statue is carelessly supported upon an amphora of the same material. Under the passes of a prestidigitateur, the statue becomes animated and serves him as an assistant. The latter takes a pack of ordinary playing cards and places them in a casket of glass. Four cards, the king of spades, the queen of hearts, the queen of clubs, and the king of diamonds, come out of the pack individually and go into the hands of the juggler without any apparent assistance. He places the four cards upright on a small platform, and there the four figures on them become animated, leave the surface of the cards, advance to the middle of the platform, and dance a minuet gracefully and prettily, the figures preserving the diminutive size of those on the cards. The dance over, each returns to its place before its corresponding playing card, and is mysteriously merged into the card as at first. This latter is an entirely new trick, most cleverly executed, a wonder of gracefulness and prettiness.

Supplement No. 26.

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693-695 A Mesmerian Experiment. Length, 200 feet.....\$34.00

The famous savant, Dr. Mesmer, the originator of Mesmerism, has decided to make a new set of demonstrations with the tub already so well known in the learned world by the name of "Mesmer's Tub." With the cooperation of his assistants he fills it with water and then draws out of it, individually, eight costumes of women which are placed upon pedestals adorning the back of the setting. The costumes, at a sign from Mesmer become animated, and it is seen that the are on the celebrated "Snow drops," the inimitable danseuses who have recently created a great furor at the Alhambra Music Hall in London. The team, under the leadership of the *première danseuse*, comes forward and executes the same number which it performed in London. The turn over, the danseuses return to their pedestals and disappear, leaving behind their costumes which Dr. Mesmer puts back into the *Tub*. The latter then has the *Tub* filled with water, but when he tips it over no water comes out,—only a flock of ducks, geese and chickens.

696-698 Mr. Dauber and the Whimsical Picture. Length, 232 feet.....\$39.50

Mr. Dauber, a painter very favorably known, receives a visit from Mr. Pierrot, a white clown enjoying a popularity as wide-spread as that of the painter himself, who comes to request a sitting for his portrait. The painter sets out promptly to execute his order, and in a few minutes he sketches upon a blackboard the portrait of his new patron. Hardly has he finished when the painting, nothing but that of a jumping-jack, begins to move its arms and legs and afterwards springs out of the frame. There follows between the three an irresistibly comic scene during which a number of amusing incidents take place, producing bursts of laughter from the audience. This view is one of the most comical which have been given to the public for a long time.

699-701 The Venetian Looking-glass. Length, 214 feet.....\$36.50

In a laboratory an alchemist is at work amidst smoking retorts and the customary appliances. From time to time he consults his mysterious books. He is disturbed in his experiments by a usurer who seeks to have the alchemist show in a vision the face